



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contacts: Spencer Jenkins
Public Information Officer
Department of Technology Services
801-538-3198

STATE OF UTAH WEB SITE RANKED THIRD IN NATION

www.Utah.Gov garners praise from nationwide competition

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – August 29, 2006 – The country is taking notice of Utah’s official Web site, www.Utah.Gov. In the annual “Best of the Web” competition, Utah.Gov has been ranked the third best state government Web site in the nation.

The Center for Digital Government, a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government, sponsored the competition. Now in its tenth year, the “Best of the Web” contest evaluates government Web sites based on their innovation, functionality, efficiency, economy, and Web-based delivery of public services.

Earlier this year, the Department of Technology Services unveiled a new Utah.gov Web site with a dramatic, Utah-inspired design that provides government information and services most sought after by citizens and businesses. With over 400 online services from 55 different agencies and divisions, the new online services search allows citizens a quick and convenient way to find the service they need most.

In addition to being able to locate services more quickly, users now have easier access to vital content: links to information about emergency preparedness as well as state news feeds right on the homepage. Those who need a little extra guidance with the new site can find assistance at the award-winning Help Center, which provides various types of technical and customer support, including 24/7 Live Chat.

“This recognition is yet another illustration of our efforts to provide information and government services efficiently to our customers,” said J. Stephen Fletcher, Chief Information Officer for the state of Utah. “The site skillfully brings convenience and ease by using some of the newest technologies in a way that effectively meets the needs of the citizens - the dramatic Web 2.0 design, the AJAX-powered keyword search, and the RSS news feeds are just a few of the useful new tools implemented in the new design.”

The Center for Digital Government agrees that Utah earned some well-deserved recognition. “Government Web sites have truly become the citizen gateway to services as sites become more robust and easier to navigate,” said Cathilea Robinett, Executive Vice President of the Center for

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Digital Government. “Utah has an elegant and highly functional site that sets the bar for the rest of the nation.”

Utah’s third place “Best of the Web” ranking comes on the heels of its unprecedented third consecutive top-five ranking in Brown University’s annual study of state and federal Web sites, and first place ranking in the 2006 Government Customer Support Excellence Awards.

About DTS:

The Department of Technology Services (DTS) was officially formed by Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. and the State Legislature with the passage of H.B.109 in 2005, calling for a major restructuring of the state’s Information Technology (IT) services. Since that time, under the State’s Chief Information Officer (CIO), Stephen Fletcher, DTS has embarked on an unprecedented transition to consolidate all IT resources and services for the State of Utah into one department to reduce costs, increase services to taxpayers, and more closely align IT with the business needs of the State of Utah.

About Utah.gov

Utah.gov is the state of Utah’s official Web portal (www.Utah.gov) and was ranked first in the nation in Brown University’s 2005 survey of state and federal Web sites and won first place in the Center for Digital Government’s 2003 Best of the Web competition. The portal is a collaborative effort between the state of Utah and Utah Interactive, LLC. It was built and is marketed, operated, and maintained by Utah Interactive, a Salt Lake City-based wholly owned subsidiary of eGovernment firm NIC (Nasdaq: EGOV).